

**BISHOPMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018**

**Attendees:** Owen Hannan; Suzanne Lynch-McKay; Shona Vincent; Irma Westwood; Madeline McCutcheon; Ailsa Stinson; Paula Coy; Lisa Stewart and Kirsty Reid.

**Apologies:** Janice Rankin.

**1). Minutes of Last Meeting.**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by SLM and seconded by LS. Minutes to be sent by SV to Mrs Brown to be uploaded onto the school website.

**2). Vision and Values**

MM took the Group through a PowerPoint presentation about the Vision and Values at Bishopmill PS. She highlighted how these link into the RRS philosophy and that they are constantly revisited. MM also explained how the RRS approach flows into the Positive Relationship Policy which in turn links back to Vision and Values.

**3). Communication**

OH referenced the email that had been sent on 15 March 2018 to the group regarding AS' proposal to carry out a survey of parents and their views on communication and "to consider any communication gaps or preferred methodology, the results from this could be used to consider a communications/engagement plan with the Parent Forum and the School." OH then invited AS to discuss this further.

AS stated that she was a communications professional and was keen to use her skills and knowledge to help the school where appropriate. She believed that a questionnaire was a good idea as it could be used to build positive relationships with parents.

MM agreed that communication can always be improved. She then went on to state several reasons why the school would not be using Facebook. The group discussed a Facebook page which had been set up by some parents. It also discussed the various ways in which the school already communicates with parents e.g. email, text, newsletters, PTF Facebook page and Twitter.

AS said that the questionnaire should contain only closed questions. It could reference the variety of information and formats used to ask, "does this reach you?" OH suggested a vote to

determine if a questionnaire was to be undertaken at this time. It was voted that a questionnaire was not required.

MM asked AS if she would be willing to help with school literature. There was to be a particular focus on composite classes and SLM suggested the removal of jargon from the existing leaflets. AS kindly agreed to help with this.

AS highlighted concerns from parents that had been shared with her in particular from RAF mums. Two specific examples were: 1) emails from the school were not friendly in tone and didn't start with "hello"; and 2) timeliness of communication and specially that following the closure of the school because of the heating issue parents were then not informed that it was open again the next day. MM explained that texts cost the school money therefore they are brief because of that. MM also explained that communication re the closure/opening of the school fell within Moray Council guidelines. LS said that all information was available on the MC website.

AS then stated that RAF mums are often anxious because their children are moving between Scottish and English education systems. PC expressed her opinion that the MOD should be doing more to help RAF parents if they are experiencing anxiety. MM and IW stated that the school is more than happy to meet with parents to discuss issues/concerns.

This section of the meeting concluded with a reminder that the Parent Council does not exist to address specific areas of concerns. MM explained the complaints procedure.

#### **4). Constitution**

MM reminded the group about the Constitution and specifically section 11.

#### **5). RRS Level 1 Report**

MM took the group through the RRS report. It is currently in draft form but when the finished report has been received it will be posted on the website.

#### **6). New Classrooms**

MM gave the group a tour of the newly painted P1 classrooms.

**7). First Minister's Reading Challenge**

KR asked if the school was aware of the First Minister's Reading Challenge. MM said that the information had been circulated to teachers but didn't think that any were pursuing it.

**8). AOB**

None

**Date of next meeting: AGM – 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 6pm**